Entering a new phase: Studying liquids with RIXS at the ALS

by Laurent Duda, USX group, Uppsala University

- Our liquid flow cell project
- Examples of recent "liquid button cell" (and other) experiments
- Our *QCM cell* project: atmospheric corrosion layer by layer
- Summary and conclusions

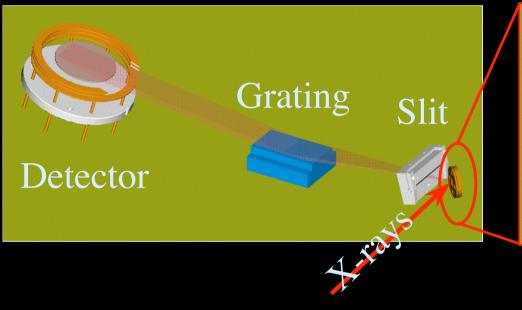


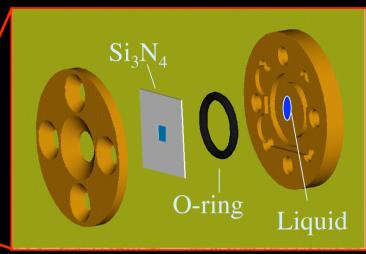




Experiments with X-ray-window sealed liquid "button" cells

Our "button cell"





- 100nm Si₃N₄ or carbon
- \sim 4 μ 1 sample,
- 30% transmission @ O1s

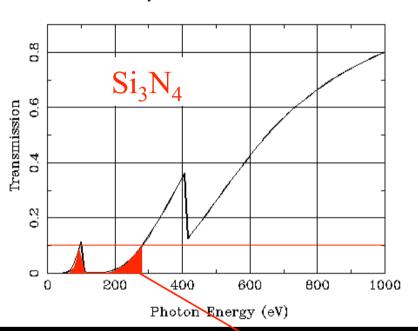




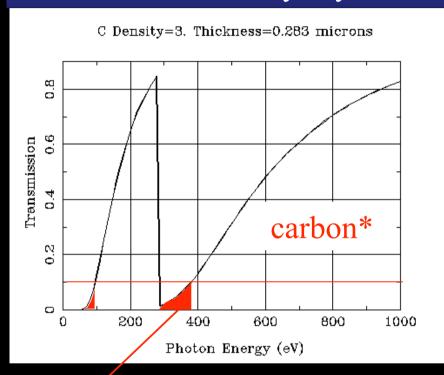
Experiments with X-ray-window sealed liquid "button" cells

Transmission of x-rays by

Si3N4 Density=3.44 Thickness=0.283 microns



Transmission of x-rays by carbon



"Dark" regions

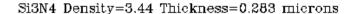
*manufactured by Joakim Andersson, Uppsala

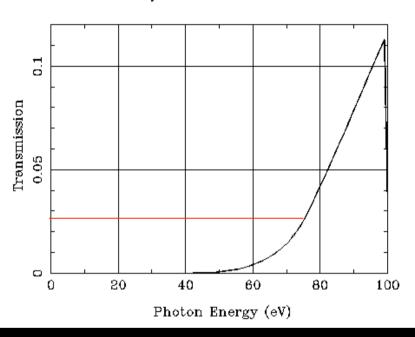




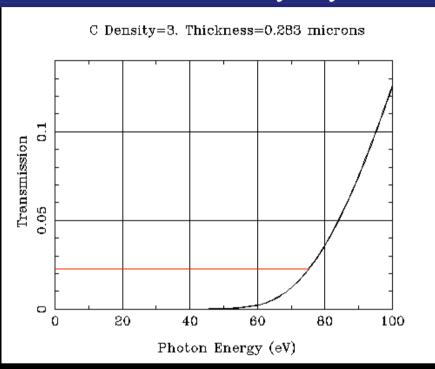
Experiments with X-ray-window sealed liquid "button" cells

Transmission of x-rays by Si₃N₄





Transmission of x-rays by carbon

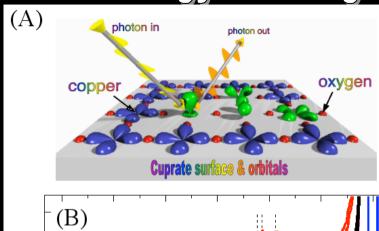


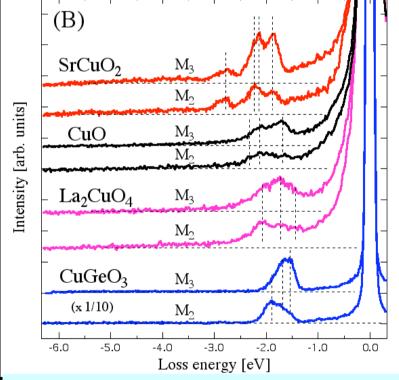
Problematic low energy region: 2-3% transmission for Cu 3*p*-edge Need other material: boron?





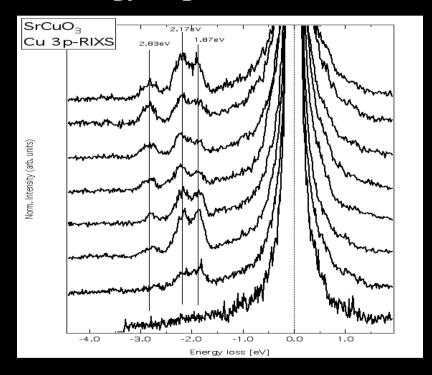
Low energy ultra-high resolution RIXS at Cu M-edges





L.-C. Duda et al. To be published

Energy dependent RIXS

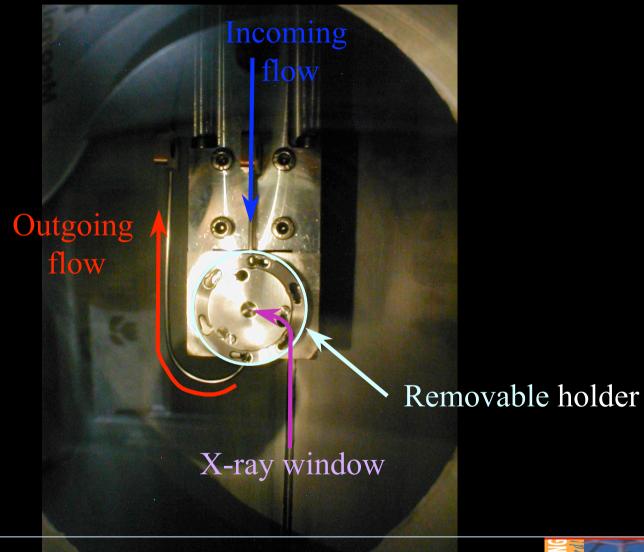






Flow-cell for studies of fluid samples

View into vacuum chamber:







Flow-cell for studies of fluid samples

Key features:

Controlled flow rate past window

Window *removable in situ* for making films and measuring on backside

Temperature control of liquid

Application of an electrical potential to window





Flow-cell for studies of fluid samples

Prototyp:built and in testing stage

• Control/feedback system: Labview-based

Window breakage safety valve:
Reseals in tens of microseconds





Examples for possible types of experiment

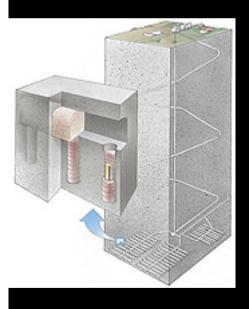
- Quick in situ change of liquid type or concentration
- Electrochemical cells and batteries
- Corrosion processes of wet surfaces
- Hydrogen loading of thin films
- Mixing of multiple components and monitoring chemical reactions





Project: Nuclear waste storage canisters

- SKB (Adj. Prof. L. Werme)/Uppsala
- RIXS on actinide oxides
- sulphide and chloride reactions with copper

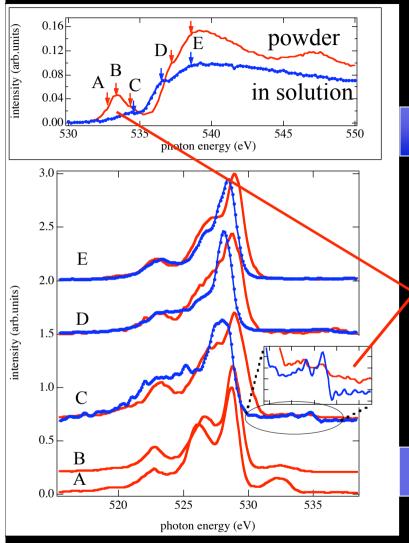








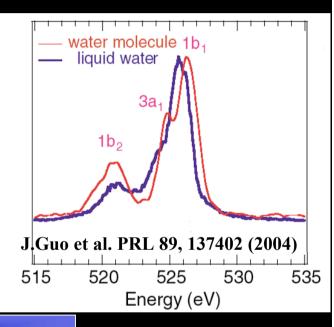
Experiences with our button cell: results and surprises



Concentrated solution of CuSO₄

O1s absorption

Interaction between water and Cu 3d-orbitals

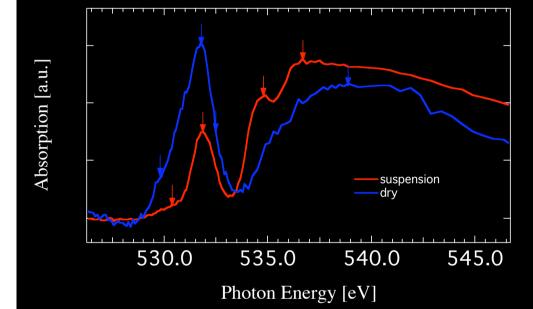


O1s resonant emission

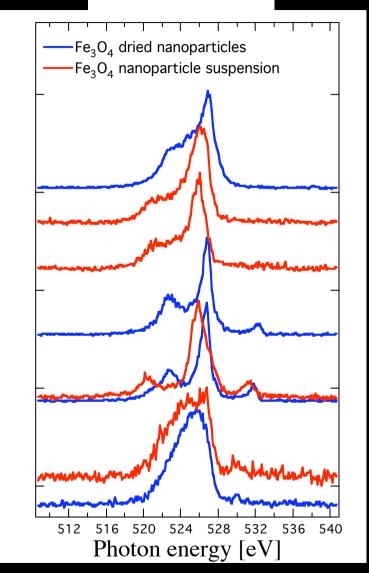




Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles in a water suspension*



O1s-RIXS



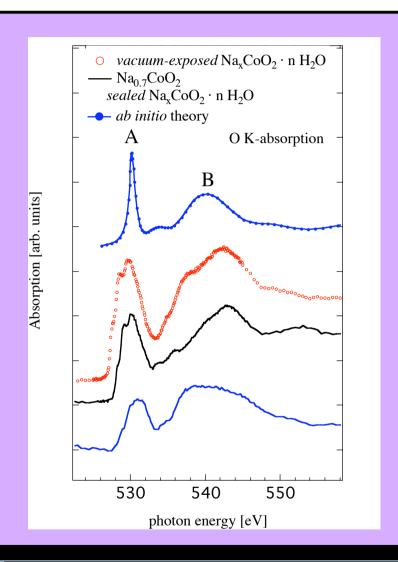
*Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles grown by Dr. Lionel Vayssieres

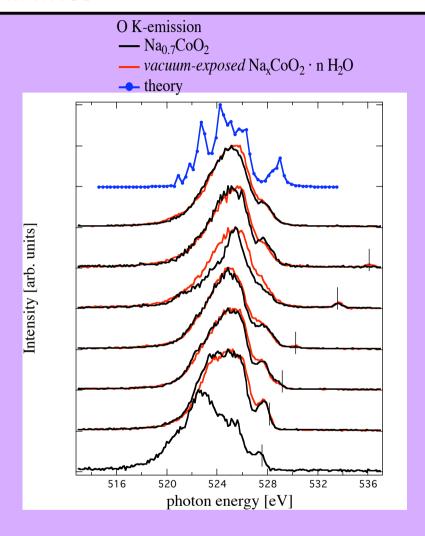




Hydrated materials lose water in vacuum

Sodium cobaltates



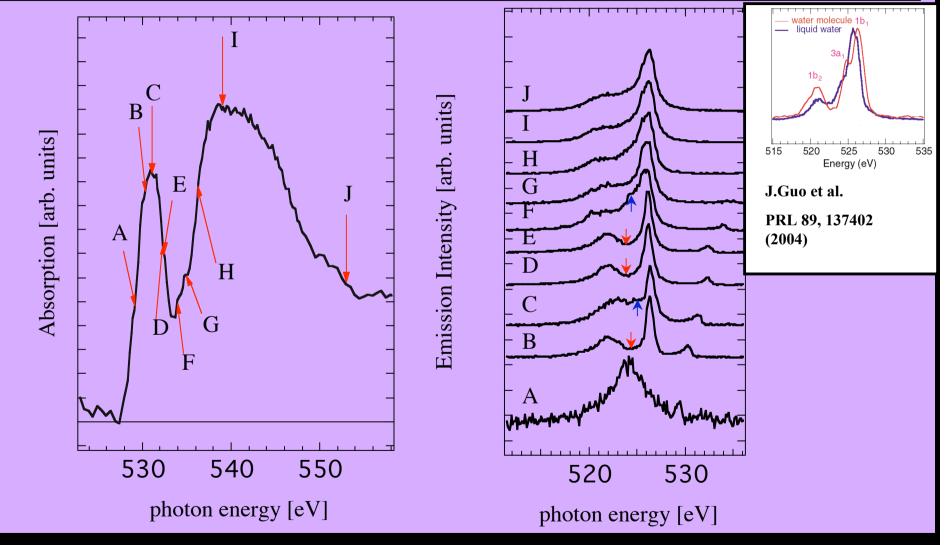






Hydrated materials lose water in vacuum

Na_xCoO₂ n H₂O







Trapped bubbles and pressure build-up in button cell

An attempted study of $H_2O_2...$

...turns into an actual measurement of O_2 ...

...and calls for the use of our new flow cell.





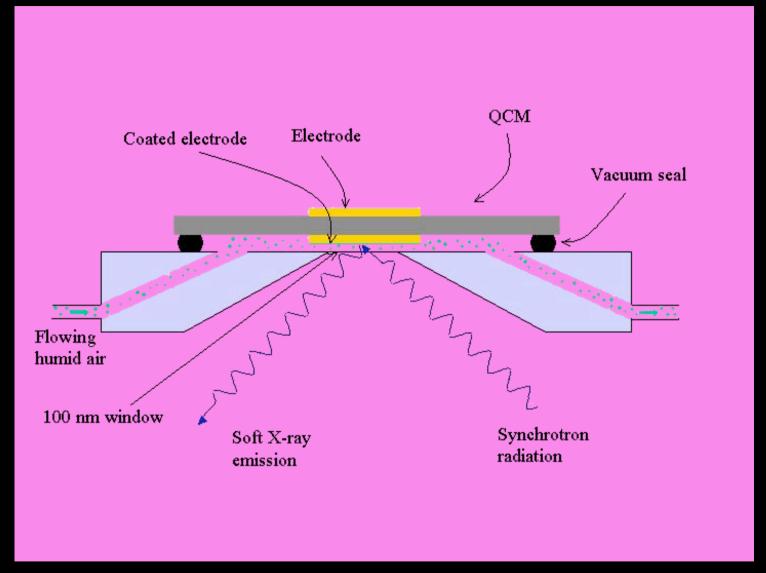
QCM gas cell for studies of atmospheric corrosion

- Uppsala/Stockholm collaboration (VR funded)
- metal films grown in situ on QCM
- study of surface degradation from a flow of corrosive air
- simultaneous in situ monitoring of mass change and SXES





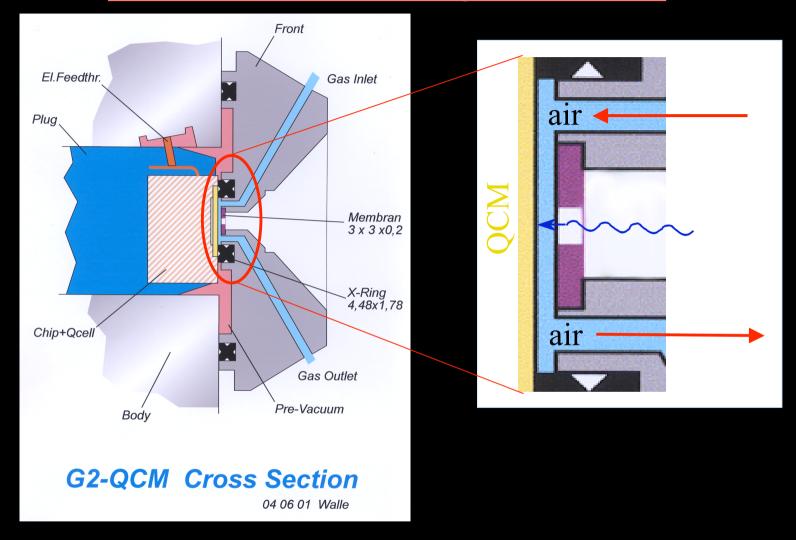
Schematic view of the QCM Gas cell







Schematic view of the QCM Gas cell







Status quo

- Prototype both vacuum-tested and QCM-tested
- *SR-version* designed and parts are in machine shop (*due Oct.*)
- First synchrotron studies planned in late Fall 2004





Conclusions

- Water-ion interaction can be substantial in solutions
- Window-technique also important for hydrated solid materials
- Button cell-experiments simple but limited (&surprises)
- Two versatile flow cells for wet/gaseous environments





Acknowledgements

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